



# The Barnesville Lantern

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*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).*



## The Pastor's Spotlight

Christmas is a time to remember all of God's blessings and love. That might be a little harder to grasp this year, but it really shouldn't be that hard, because Jesus' love is the same today as it was yesterday, and it will be just the same tomorrow. Everything good thing in our lives comes from God, so when we dwell on Jesus' love and mercy, we will be filled with hope and joy. *James 1:17* tells us that all perfect gifts are from God: *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows"*. We'll grow closer to God when we understand that truth and build our lives around it. It all starts with having true faith in God's promises and His perfect will for our lives. As the hymn that we all love and sing says, "Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey".

The four weeks of Advent remind us of the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love that we receive from God through Jesus' birth. We should make a habit of expressing gratitude for these blessings in our lives instead of finding fault and criticizing as our default position. When you see something good in your life, point it out. Thank God for it. As we approach the Christmas season, let's all think about why we celebrate Christmas in the first place: God's gift to us all, Jesus. *John 1:10-12* says that mankind can choose whether to receive the gift of Jesus' birth. Many reject Him, ignore Him, and deny Him, but for those who do accept and believe in Him, He grants them *"the right to become children of God"*. Jesus is the reason for the season, so as we go through Christmas in 2020, focus on just how blessed we are as children of God to have Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us.

Cindy and I would like to once again say how thankful we are to God for all of our family here at BBC. May God bless you this Christmas season.



God Bless,

Pastor Danny

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## Upcoming Events

- December 2** Business Meeting
- December 24** Christmas Eve Service
- December 25** Christmas



*"...The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings..." (Malachi 4:2).*



## The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

Are you prepared for Christmas? For many of us, getting ready for Christmas means a month or more of chores and activities like wrapping presents, writing cards, stringing lights, decorating a Christmas tree, cleaning the house, and grocery shopping. To prepare for the first Christmas, God took much longer to arrange for the advent of His Son, about 15 months of advance work to set the stage for Christ's birth.

The first step was to get a priest named Zacharias ready to be a father. "Well advanced" in years, along with his wife, Elizabeth, Zacharias had long before put away any thoughts of being a father. But just like Abraham & Sarah, Zacharias & Elizabeth were about to become parents when they least expected it. The angel Gabriel told Zacharias that his son would get Israel ready for God. By Zacharias' day, God had been silent for four centuries, and the Jews were spiritually adrift, so John would bring them back to the Lord. *"He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord"* (Luke 1:17). But when Gabriel explained God's plans, Zacharias' doubt resulted in muteness until the naming ceremony for his newborn son, John. Nine months of silence gave Zacharias plenty of time to focus on what was ahead, for his first words after his extended quiet time included this prophecy: *"And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins..."* (Luke 1:76-77).

Elizabeth also needed time to prepare for motherhood. Luke 1:24 says she *"hid herself five months"*, most likely as an act of worship to focus on the Lord's life-changing grace in her life. Just like Hannah in the Old Testament, Elizabeth's pregnancy lifted a social stigma of not having children. Elizabeth and Mary prepared together for the miraculous sons they received from the Lord, both surprised but both grateful to be chosen to serve the Lord in unique and special ways.

Just as God prepared John's parents, God, through John, prepared Israel for Jesus. In *Matthew 3*, John preached repentance and baptism before Jesus' ministry. Many across Israel responded to John's message to reject sin and seek after God. It was John who called out Jesus as the Lamb of God, who baptized Him to inaugurate His ministry, and whose followers, among them Andrew and Simon Peter, began to follow Jesus. As Jesus began to increase in public stature and attention, John celebrated that fact, saying, *"He must increase, but I must decrease"* (John 3:30).

It is remarkable that God also prepared the whole world to receive Jesus at just the right time and place. Jesus was born in the Roman Empire, whose network of roads and shipping lanes would allow missionaries like Paul and the other apostles to travel across Europe and Asia. Many different nations and cultures shared the language of law and government, Latin, and the language of culture and education, Greek, so that all could receive and understand the Gospel message. As we prepare for an unusual Christmas this year, let's make sure that we first prepare ourselves to focus on and appreciate Jesus.

## Christmas Carol Scramble

Can you match these 20 Christmas carols with a phrase from their lyrics? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 1.

- |                                       |                              |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Angels We Have Heard on High       | A. shone a holy light        |
| 2. Angels, from the Realms of Glory   | B. dark streets shining      |
| 3. Away in a Manger                   | C. cattle are lowing         |
| 4. Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus     | D. gain His everlasting hall |
| 5. Go, Tell It on the Mountain        | E. wonders of His love       |
| 6. Good Christian Men, Rejoice        | F. healing in His wings      |
| 7. Hark! the Herald Angels Sing       | G. ransom captive Israel     |
| 8. How Great Our Joy!                 | H. hear the angel voices     |
| 9. I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day | I. His natal star            |
| 10. I Wonder as I Wander              | J. field and fountain        |
| 11. Infant Holy, Infant Lowly         | K. joyous strains prolong    |
| 12. Joy to the World!                 | L. poor orn'ry people        |
| 13. O Come, All Ye Faithful           | M. certain poor shepherds    |
| 14. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel          | N. His bed a cattle stall    |
| 15. O Holy Night                      | O. pealed the bells          |
| 16. O Little Town of Bethlehem        | P. set Thy people free       |
| 17. Silent Night                      | Q. on Mary's lap is sleeping |
| 18. The First Noel                    | R. Round yon virgin          |
| 19. We Three Kings                    | S. Word of the Father        |
| 20. What Child Is This?               | T. Glad tidings brought      |

## COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"That's what you get when you leave a third grader in charge of special effects!"

## December Birthdays

- 2 Tina Appleton, Elnora Caudell
- 5 Robin Berry
- 6 Justin Yates
- 17 Roy Leibrand, Mary Ann Luhn, Cindy Moore
- 24 Ashlinn Cole
- 28 Ralph Cooley
- 29 Ollie Baumbaugh
- 31 Larry Michael



## Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in November:*

- The Church approved a motion to increase the 2020 Pastor Insurance BLI by \$500.

*Expected at the December Business Meeting:*

- The Finance Cmte. will offer a motion to approve its recommended 2021 Church budget of \$212,252, which is \$8,819 less than the 2020 adjusted budget amount of \$221,071.
- The Pastor and Deacons will present the membership applications of Tim & Donna Conklin, each coming by statement.

## Prayer Concerns

Nick Cole  
 Jesse Yates  
 the men & women of the Upper Montgomery Co.  
 V.F.D.

Seniors: Arlene Luhn, Bilyie Luhn, Cortland "Pop" Moore, Dot Fowler, Gene Bennett, Hisle Beach, Janet Magruder, Ollie Baumbaugh, Linda Roberts, Margie Stream, Paul & Trudy Meissner, Phoebe Rogers, Ralph Cooley, Rebecca Umstead, Susan Rice

Cancer patients: Sam Berry, prostate cancer; Gail Palestine; Joe Williams, Bob & Stephanie Runkles' granddaughter, Amathy, breast cancer

Our missionary friends Matt & Ellen Zell (Honduras)



*"The LORD is righteous in all His ways,  
 Gracious in all His works.  
 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him,  
 To all who call upon Him in truth.  
 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him;  
 He also will hear their cry and save them"*  
 (Psalm 145:17-19)

## Christmas Carol Word Search

R A C H R I S T M A S B E L L S Z L N  
 E C N Y R O L G F O S M L A E R R I Z  
 G H H G L O N G E X P E C T E D A G M  
 N R E Z E X D Z V Q L D D G R T I R M  
 A I R A N L P L X B I J R T N W Z Q S  
 M S A Z L P S N R N N E G U O L Q I D  
 A T L L M L B H F O A T O N E B H R N  
 N I D X E M Y A E T W M D U T T B W R  
 I A A M V O N E O A E E N Y S J O Y S  
 Y N N B S T N U F H R A H I V T T I B  
 A M G X H G R T T A M D D T E B L T T  
 W E E O T J N N S M I L O L O E Y H P  
 A N L Z O K O I E R I T T N N T G V R  
 P Y S Y K T W E K H I T H T H I Y Q Q  
 Y N K T I A M Q C E I F N F N I M O R  
 K J V L N O T T Q L E I Q Y U V G T J  
 Q Z L D C D A Q O Y G R L X J L N H B  
 X E E O R H Y P P H L O H T P D R G N  
 T R V M W L X M T D H Y D T T T K L R

Word Bank: Angels Heard on High, Realms of Glory, Away in a Manger, Long Expected, Tell It on the Mountain, Christian Men, Herald Angels, Great Our Joy, Christmas Bells, I Wonder as I Wander, Infant Holy, Joy to the World, All Ye Faithful, O Come Emmanuel, Holy Night, O Little Town, Silent Night, First Noel, Three Kings, What Child Is This

## Christmas Carol Scramble Answers

1. K; 2. I; 3. C; 4. P; 5. A; 6. D; 7. F; 8. T; 9. O; 10. L;  
 11. N; 12. E; 13. S; 14. G; 15. H; 16. B; 17. R; 18. M;  
 19. J; 20. Q.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2021 from the  
 Lantern staff.





## News You Can Use

**Celebrating Christmas.** This year's Christmas season will be different, with many of the normal gatherings cancelled, but the spirit will remain the same. Due to new coronavirus-related restrictions, BBC is operating on a two-service schedule, the first time ever that BBC has had more than one Sunday morning service! Sunday School is being held at 8:15 am and worship at 9:15 am and 10:45 am, with only the latter being livestreamed. On Christmas Eve, candlelight services will be held at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm. If you haven't already, please contact Pastor Danny to arrange which Sunday service you'd like to attend so we have room for all to worship.

**Christmas card exchange.** Share some Christmas cheer with your fellow church members by sending them a Christmas card. A box will be available in the vestibule starting Sunday, Dec. 6, where you can drop off cards to be passed out before and after services in December.

**Nov. 29.** Captain Lawrence "LT" Tyler will be singing Christmas songs to start the Advent season. There will be three baptisms on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

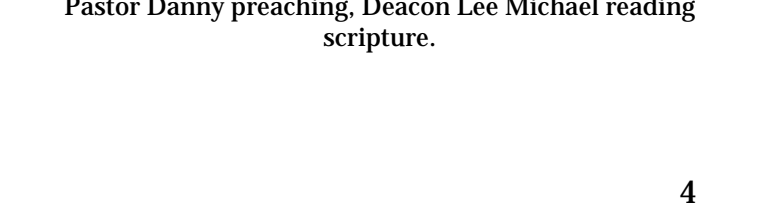
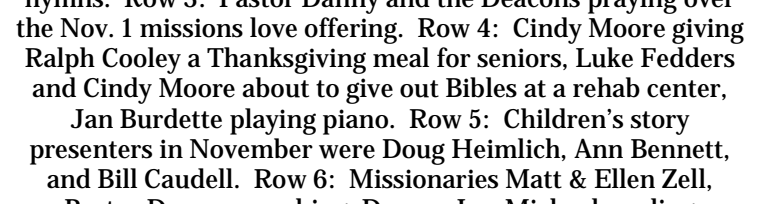
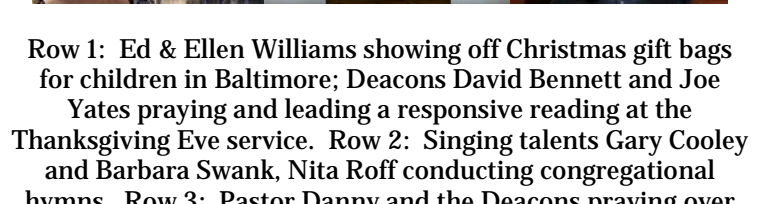
**Dec. 6.** The 150<sup>th</sup> Cmte. will meet after the 10:45 am service in the Fellowship Hall. Gift bags for children to be given out at Northeast Baptist Church's Christmas Party for Jesus are due by Sunday, Dec. 6.

**Missions in-gathering.** The love offering collected for missionaries Matthew & Ellen Zell and Manuel & Cindy Batres in the month of November totaled \$2,495 as of press time. Thank you for your great generosity in supporting Kingdom work in Honduras and Guatemala.

**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal set at \$2,000.**

Nov. 29-Dec. 6 is the week of prayer for the 2020 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Together, we and the International Mission Board are able to send out more than 3,500 missionaries to share the Gospel all over the world. The national goal is \$175 million; BBC's is \$2,000. Last year, IMB missionaries engaged 827 people groups, planted over 12,000 churches and baptized almost 48,000 people. Please pray about a sacrificial gift for foreign missions.

**Christmas poinsettias for sale.** If you would like to purchase a Christmas poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, please contact Kitty Cooley at 301-349-5119.



Row 1: Ed & Ellen Williams showing off Christmas gift bags for children in Baltimore; Deacons David Bennett and Joe Yates praying and leading a responsive reading at the Thanksgiving Eve service. Row 2: Singing talents Gary Cooley and Barbara Swank, Nita Roff conducting congregational hymns. Row 3: Pastor Danny and the Deacons praying over the Nov. 1 missions love offering. Row 4: Cindy Moore giving Ralph Cooley a Thanksgiving meal for seniors, Luke Fedders and Cindy Moore about to give out Bibles at a rehab center, Jan Burdette playing piano. Row 5: Children's story presenters in November were Doug Heimlich, Ann Bennett, and Bill Caudell. Row 6: Missionaries Matt & Ellen Zell, Pastor Danny preaching, Deacon Lee Michael reading scripture.